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LETTER DATED 14 APRIL 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of an appeal made by the President of the Azerbaijani Republic, Mr. Heydar A. Aliyev, on radio and television on 12 April 1994 in connection with the continuing aggression by the Republic of Armenia against Azerbaijan and the escalation of hostile actions in the conflict area.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Appeal to the nation by Mr. Heydar Aliyev, President of the Azerbaijani Republic, broadcast on television and radio on 12 April 1994

I find myself obliged to appear today on Azerbaijani television to inform my people and the whole world community about the events which have taken place in the last few days as a result of the aggressive actions of the Armenian armed formations which, starting on 9 April, have been carrying out a massed offensive in several directions against positions held by the armed forces of Azerbaijan, trying to break through deep into the territory of the Republic. In particular, on 9 April Armenian armed formations launched a massed offensive against the territory of the Geranboy district with a view to seizing the settlements of Talysh and Gyulistan. On 10 April a massed offensive was launched by Armenian armed formations against the settlements of Madagiz and Akop-Kamary in the Agdere district. At the same time, a massed offensive was launched against three sectors of the Agdam district.

These offensive operations are still continuing today.

All this has occurred against the background of the talks held recently about the conclusion of an agreement on a cease-fire between Azerbaijan and Armenia and the withdrawal of Armenian armed formations from the territory of Azerbaijan. These talks included talks with Mr. Levon Ter-Petrossian, President of the Republic of Armenia, on 24 December 1993 in Ashkhabad. At that time, at the meeting of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States, I made a statement about the aggressive actions of Armenian armed formations against Azerbaijan and called upon the Commonwealth of Independent States to take effective measures to prevent a further escalation of Armenian aggression and to bring about a cessation of military activities. We have cooperated actively with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and with the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, which have taken it upon themselves to carry out a mediation mission to bring about peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the cessation of military activities. In January and February of this year, we considered several draft agreements submitted by the Russian mediator and, in principle, we agreed to them, taking into account some observations and additions which we made. Each time, however, the Armenian side destroyed any possibility of reaching agreement.

On 18 February of this year, a meeting of the Ministers of Defence of Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Federation was held in Moscow. A Protocol was signed on the cessation of military activities and the withdrawal of Armenian armed formations from the occupied districts of Azerbaijan. That Protocol provided for a cease-fire and the cessation of all military activities with effect from 1 March. We have fully complied with the requirements of that Protocol. From the first days of March, however, Armenian armed formations launched active offensive operations, mainly against the territory of the Fizuli

district and other sectors, with a view to breaking through the Azerbaijani defences and advancing further. This continued virtually throughout March.

It must be said that the armed forces of Azerbaijan, the military units which are on the defensive lines in the Fizuli district and in other sectors have duly repulsed the Armenian armed formations, which have not succeeded in breaking through. The situation has recently become calmer. Each time hostilities break out it is as a result of attacks by Armenian armed formations. I can state with full responsibility that no offensive operations have been carried out by our side in recent weeks, particularly since the signing of the Protocol in Moscow on 18 February.

A week ago, a special representative of the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Kazimirov, arrived in Baku. We considered a draft agreement which he brought and which he believed Azerbaijan and Armenia could sign in the near future with the participation of the Russian Federation. We were basically in agreement with the draft but, naturally, made appropriate proposals and observations. The draft was also to be agreed with the Armenian side. We have been awaiting the outcome, but, since 9 April, Armenian armed formations, having regrouped, have brought up to the front zone a substantial quantity of military equipment, weapons and reserve personnel from almost all regions of Armenia and have launched a massed offensive. As I have already said, this offensive was launched in the Geranboy, Agdere and Agdam districts and continued the day before yesterday and yesterday and is still continuing today. Bloody battles are still being fought.

Our military units, the soldiers of Azerbaijan, are duly repulsing the Armenian armed formations, doing battle heroically and defending themselves worthily, and are protecting the frontiers on which they are stationed, ensuring the defence of the Azerbaijani Republic. We have suffered casualties in these battles. Yesterday alone, as a result of fierce fighting in the territory of the Agdam district - it must be said that three times Armenian armed formations have actively taken the offensive - 21 men were killed and 46 were wounded. The commander of the battalion, Elmar Adilov, a native of that area who had been fighting in Agdam for two years, died heroically. In addition, 12 men from the battalion formed in Sumgait died heroically defending their native land. More than 20 men also died in the territory of the Agdere and Geranboy districts. The Armenian armed formations have suffered losses several times greater in terms of both personnel and equipment. Blood is being spilt and fierce battles are being waged. And all this is the fault of the aggressive Armenian forces, which are seeking, as before, to realize their aggressive aims.

Today, before coming here, I contacted the commanders of the military units and I should like once again to assure the citizens of Azerbaijan that our military units are standing firm on Azerbaijan's defensive lines, waging battle and making sure that the Armenian aggressors do not break through.

Yesterday and today, some of Azerbaijan's glorious sons, citizens of our Republic, were lost. I should like to take this opportunity to express sympathy with the families of those who perished in those battles and with the families of all the martyrs who have given their lives for an independent Azerbaijan, for the defence of their native land, and I declare that the memory of these heroes

will live for ever in our hearts, in the heart of every inhabitant of Azerbaijan.

I should like once again to state that the inhabitants of Azerbaijan, including the inhabitants of those regions which are in direct proximity to the frontier zone, can rest easy and be assured that the Republic's defence lines will be reliably protected.

In this connection, I appeal to all citizens of Azerbaijan to participate actively in the defence of our native land - the independent State of Azerbaijan - and in the building up of our armed forces and the formation of our military units.

Such an appeal has been necessitated by the fact that recently we have noted an increase in the number of cases of desertion from military units and of evasion of mobilization. This is unacceptable. Those young people who embark on that course are committing treachery against their native land, against the State, the nation and their own parents. I therefore appeal to those young citizens of Azerbaijan: it is your sacred duty to join the ranks of the army, to defend your native land and the honour and dignity of the whole nation and of your parents and grandparents.

I appeal to the parents of those who desert from the army or are evading mobilization. My dear fellow-countrymen, understand that the defence of our native land is a matter for each citizen. No one can stand aside from this sacred cause. You must do everything you can to ensure that your children, your sons and your other relatives, serve worthily in the ranks of the Azerbaijani army, defending our fatherland in the name of a future independent Azerbaijan.

I appeal to all citizens of Azerbaijan at this difficult time to join forces and to do everything possible to defend our land, to prevent any further advance by the aggressor into our territory and to bring about the liberation of the occupied areas of Azerbaijan and ensure the territorial integrity and independence of the Republic.

I believe that my appeal will be favourably received by every honest citizen of Azerbaijan, man or woman. I am relying on this.

In this connection, I should like to refer to the base activities of individual elements which still remain in our society and which are endeavouring, in this complex situation, to spread various rumours, to sow panic in some regions of the Republic and to destabilize the situation. I should like all citizens of Azerbaijan to know that these traitors to our native land must be repulsed. Let no one give way to panic, since there is no reason for panic. All regions of Azerbaijan are reliably protected by our army units and the inhabitants of frontier towns, districts and settlements can pursue their lives and work in peace. I hope that the honest citizens of Azerbaijan who are devoted to their native land - and they are in the absolute majority - will duly repulse these agents provocateurs, these traitors, who in such difficult days for Azerbaijan are trying to realize their sordid ambitious goals.

I should like to take this opportunity to appeal to the inhabitants of Nagorny Karabakh of Armenian nationality - citizens of Azerbaijan, my fellow citizens - to cease their opposition, to refrain from aggressive schemes and to understand, finally, that those forces which have led them into this hopeless war are inflicting huge losses on Nagorny Karabakh itself, on each family and on each of its inhabitants.

The inhabitants of Nagorny Karabakh of Armenian nationality are probably able to realize today that this exhausting six-year war has brought them no good. They and we both know that many villages and many houses have been destroyed and that many people have been killed. In Nagorny Karabakh there is probably no family which has not lost one of its own.

Why is this war necessary? Who needs this war? It will not be of any use. Armenians lived together with Azerbaijanis in Nagorny Karabakh in peace, harmony and friendship. You have been living here for more than 150 years. During this time, with the exception of a few difficult periods, relations between Azerbaijanis and Armenians have been good and characterized by friendship and harmony.

In this light, everything that has happened over the past six years has been terrible not only for the Azerbaijani people, not only for the Azerbaijanis who have been expelled from Nagorny Karabakh and have become refugees; this situation is terrible and unfortunate for you, the inhabitants of Nagorny Karabakh. Why do you need this? What is your objective? You know that this war is hopeless for you; you will not gain anything by it.

We are well aware that many of you are fighting under duress, you have been forced by your leaders and extremist aggressive circles in Armenia who are pursuing their own nationalist goals and are using you as cannon fodder. We are well aware that you are being pushed - forced - into this war. It is high time that you realized that it is not in your interest.

This is why I call upon you: come to your senses. Once again I say: you will gain nothing by this war. The longer it drags on, the worse your situation will become. In Azerbaijan, you, as Azerbaijani citizens, can count on the best treatment and full guarantees of your security and normal life and activities. I am confident that reason will prevail, confident that we shall achieve this; there is no other way.

I take this opportunity to call upon all citizens of Armenia, the Armenian people, President Levon Ter-Petrossian and the leaders of political parties who are politically active in Armenia; I call upon them to make peace. For centuries, the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples have lived side by side. An analysis of the centuries-long history of our peoples shows that, for the most part, the past was characterized by good relations, friendship and harmony between the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples. Fate has ordained that our peoples must live together in this region. It is unacceptable that relations between them should always be hostile. The Armenian people should know that it cannot always be at odds with the Azerbaijani people. I therefore call upon you to end the hostilities and agree to live in peace and good-neighbourly relations.

The whole world knows that this war was incited by aggressive circles in Armenia. It also knows that 20 per cent of the territory of Azerbaijan has been occupied by Armenian armed formations. The world knows also that the war is being waged not in Armenia but in Azerbaijan. Why should residents of Leninakan, Echmiadzin, Erevan and other regions of Armenia have to fight and die in the Fizuli, Agdam, Djebrail, Gubadly, Geranboy districts of Azerbaijan? What do they want there? The interrogations of prisoners of war are eloquent proof that many of them have been forced into armed formations and have been sent to the front lines in Azerbaijan. Many of these men are not even aware what they are fighting for.

Over the past three days, the Armenian armed formations that are conducting the offensive against positions of Azerbaijani army units have sustained many casualties in the military operations. I mentioned the number of Azerbaijani fighters who have died. We have information that the number of Armenian citizens and residents of Nagorny Karabakh who have perished is several times higher. We know this for a fact. We even know the names of the commanders who died yesterday in the battle for Agdam. These men came from mountainous districts of Armenia. Why, to what end, do they need to fight here?

I therefore have reason to appeal to the citizens of Armenia and the Armenian people to stop the fighting. I assure you that this war is hopeless. It will not fulfil the aspirations of the aggressive circles in Armenia; they will not achieve their objectives in this manner. Neither Armenia nor Azerbaijan, as independent States, can be on hostile terms for ever. I hope that my well-intentioned appeal will elicit an appropriate response. I am speaking sincerely about all this.

Yesterday and today I tried to reach the President of Armenia, Mr. Levon Ter-Petrossian, by telephone. I was not successful. Now, availing myself of television and radio, I call upon him and all the leaders of Armenia to recognize their responsibility to their people. At the same time, I still hope that we will have an opportunity to talk on the telephone.

I call upon the entire international community, international organizations, the United Nations, the United Nations Security Council and the leaders of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, the Russian Federation and China; I call upon them to use their influence to end the hostilities and find a peaceful solution to this question.

I call upon the leaders of the Russian Federation, a large State with a great deal of authority in world politics, a State that has good relations with both Azerbaijan and Armenia. I believe that the Russian Federation's mediation efforts should be more effective and produce concrete results.

I call upon the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Minsk Group that was established by the Conference to find a solution to the so-called Karabakh problem; I call upon them to take a more active role in this process.

I call upon neighbouring countries - Turkey and its leaders, the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the leaders of Georgia. They have common borders

with both Azerbaijan and Armenia. I call upon them to participate more actively in the processes taking place in our region and to take measures to end the hostilities and Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan.

At the same time, as the leader of a State member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, I call upon the heads of the States members of the Commonwealth and once again draw their attention to the fact that war between countries of the Commonwealth is not normal.

I hope that the international community will respond favourably to my appeal. I also hope for concrete, practical action on the part of international organizations.

I should like to draw attention to one more fact. I have already said that, in recent months, we have taken vigorous steps to achieve harmony and peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan and to end the hostilities. In this connection, we have attached, and continue to attach, great importance to the work of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Minsk Group. A month ago, the leader of the Minsk Group, Mr. Jan Eliasson, was here with a large delegation. We held talks with the new leaders of the Minsk Group, who assured us that it will continue its active involvement in finding a solution to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The delegation then went to Armenia. By the way, yesterday, on 11 April, the Minsk Group met in Prague. Representatives of both Azerbaijan and Armenia participate in such meetings. Just when the Minsk Group was meeting to decide on new measures to promote the peaceful settlement of the problem, Armenian armed formations took the offensive.

A week ago, the special representative of the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Kazimirov, was in Baku. He presented us with a draft agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia, with the participation of the Russian Federation, that provides for an end to hostilities, withdrawal from the occupied districts of Azerbaijan and the holding of negotiations on the whole question, including Nagorny Karabakh. We gave our consent in principle to the consideration of this agreement along with our comments and proposals and we hoped that we would soon have an opportunity to meet with the Armenian leaders, with the Russian Federation acting as mediator, to consider this agreement. Finally, a meeting of the heads of independent States was scheduled to be held on 14 and 15 April in Moscow. We, of course, are preparing for that meeting. The agenda includes questions whose solution is of interest to us.

Now, just when the Minsk Group is meeting in Prague, when the Russian Federation's mediation efforts are in full swing, on the eve of the meeting of heads of independent States in Moscow, Armenian armed formations have begun an offensive. Fierce fighting has been going on for three days. I do not know what their aim is. To hinder the peace process? Put pressure on Azerbaijan and its leaders? Or perhaps they have some other objectives?

But I declare that, whatever the objectives of the aggressive circles that have undertaken these offensive operations, Azerbaijan will not abandon its positions. The independent Azerbaijani State will continue to seek guarantees of its sovereignty and independence. No one can jeopardize the independence of

the Azerbaijani Republic. We cannot be forced to make any concessions whatsoever. We can agree to compromises in the interest of peace. But we shall not agree to any concessions.

I declare that the use of force has been condemned by the entire international community. International organizations, and the United Nations in particular, oppose the use of force for the attainment of objectives, for the modification of State borders. This international norm should be observed here, in our region.

I therefore hope that my appeal to international organizations and States that can use their influence to help stabilize the situation in the Caucasus, in particular in our country, will bear fruit.

In conclusion, I should like once again to refer to Azerbaijan's internal problems and to appeal to all citizens of the Republic and all political forces to unite in defence of our homeland, our State, and not to succumb to any provocative rumours. In Azerbaijan there are various groups that are seeking, as they have done in the past, to exploit the complicated situation on the front to achieve their criminal objectives, to attempt to seize power. Such forces also exist outside Azerbaijan. They should know that they will never achieve anything through such methods. The Azerbaijani people are united and have closed ranks. I believe in the unity of the Azerbaijani people and in its wisdom, I believe that all citizens of Azerbaijan who consider Azerbaijan as their homeland, will unite to withstand and valiantly repulse the latest attacks by Armenian armed formations and will defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan.

My appeal today has only one objective: to rally the Azerbaijani people, the citizens of our Republic. I have no other aim, and there is no cause for alarm. I rely on the citizens of Azerbaijan, and I am confident that together we will overcome these difficulties.